



In the claims:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Amended) A water-soluble or water-dispersible polyurethane comprising a reaction product of

- A) a mixture of at least one polyether polyol a1) having an average functionality of ≥ 3 and at least one urethane group-containing polyether polyol a2) having an average functionality of ≥ 4 ,
- B) at least one C₈-C₂₂ monoisocyanate,
- C) at least one (cyclo)aliphatic and/or aromatic diisocyanate,
- D) optionally at least one C₈-C₂₂ monoalcohol, and
- E) optionally at least one polyisocyanate having an average functionality of > 2

wherein the starting NCO/OH equivalent ratio is between 0.5:1 to 1.2:1.

2. (Amended) The polyurethane of Claim 1, wherein the polyether polyol a1) has an average functionality of 3.

3. (Amended) The polyurethane of Claim 1, wherein the polyether polyol a1) has an average functionality of 4 to 6.

4. (Amended) The polyurethane of Claim 1, wherein component B) comprises a C₁₀-C₁₈ monoisocyanate.

5. (Amended) The polyurethane of Claim 1, wherein component B) comprises a C₁₂-C₁₈ monoisocyanate.

6. (Amended) The polyurethane of Claim 1, wherein component C) comprises a (cyclo)aliphatic diisocyanate.

7. (Amended) The polyurethane of Claim 1, wherein component D) comprises a C₁₀-C₁₈ monoalcohol.

8. (Amended) A process for the production of a water-soluble or water-dispersible polyurethane comprising reacting

- A) a mixture of at least one polyether polyol a1) having an average functionality of ≥ 3 and at least one urethane group-containing polyether polyol a2) having an average functionality of ≥ 4 ,
 - B) at least one C₈-C₂₂ monoisocyanate,
 - C) at least one (cyclo)aliphatic and/or aromatic diisocyanate,
 - D) optionally at least one C₈-C₂₂ monoalcohol, and
 - E) optionally at least one polyisocyanate having a mean functionality of > 2
- wherein the starting NCO/OH equivalent ratio is between 0.5:1 to 1.2:1..

9. (Amended) The process of Claim 8, wherein the urethane group-containing polyether polyol a2) is produced by a partial reaction of the polyether polyol a1) with a diisocyanate.

10. (Amended) The process of Claim 8, wherein the urethane group-containing polyether polyol a2) is produced by a partial reaction of the polyether polyol a1) with polyisocyanates having an average functionality of ≥ 2 .

11. (Amended) A composition of matter comprising the polyurethane of Claim 1.

12. (Amended) The composition of Claim 11, wherein the composition is a thickened aqueous paint system, an adhesive or another aqueous formulation.